

Not only is the event to be recognized for its contributions to local charities, but also for its promotion of community spirit and vitality. This event brings people from all backgrounds in the community together in support of local organizations. Wisconsinites are given the chance to interact with "celebrity" cashiers. Every year as a cashier I truly enjoy gathering with my constituents at Brat Fest, serving up brats, and making sure no one leaves hungry.

This form of positive community building is commendable and deserves recognition. I look forward to future Memorial Day Brat Fests and the service that they provide for the community.

TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE
PETER RODINO ON HIS BIRTHDAY

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 5, 2003

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to honor my predecessor and one of the most outstanding members ever to serve in this body, the Honorable Peter Rodino, as he celebrates his 94th birthday on June 7th.

As Chairman of the House Judiciary Committee from the 93rd through the 100th Congress, former Representative Rodino set a standard for excellence which earned him a national reputation. While he is best known for presiding over the Watergate hearings with fairness, decorum, and a respect for history, he also had many other legislative accomplishments during his 40 years of service in the U.S. House of Representatives. He managed the historic 1966 Civil Rights Bill on the floor of the House. He was the author of the 1982 Voting Rights Act Extension and a leader in the successful effort to make Dr. Martin Luther King's birthday a national holiday.

Chairman Rodino has been honored with numerous international, national and local awards, including Pope John Paul II's Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice Award; the Democratic Council on Ethnic Americans' Democratic Ethnic Heritage Award for Leadership, and the Rutgers University Award. He has received honorary degrees from more than 15 colleges and universities, including Seton Hall, Princeton, Rutgers and Fairleigh Dickinson. He joined the Seton Hall Law School faculty in 1988.

Along with many others, as a youngster growing up and as a college student, I was inspired by Peter Rodino to enter public service. Many of us followed his work in Congress with great pride and admiration for his integrity and willingness to stand up for what was right. I was proud that he served as Chairman of a reception held in my honor during my reelection campaign for county office in 1976 at my alma mater, Seton Hall University.

It has been a privilege for me to serve in the Congressional seat once held by Representative Rodino. I am always aware that I have big shoes to fill in replacing such a legendary public servant.

I know that my colleagues here in the U.S. House of Representatives join me in sending best wishes for continued health and happiness to Chairman Rodino on his birthday.

TRIBUTE TO JOANNE CARLIN

HON. SHERROD BROWN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 5, 2003

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to pay tribute to the life of Joanne Carlin, a lifelong resident of the Cleveland area, who died on May 14 after a courageous battle against cancer.

Joanne's giving spirit was shaped by her experiences growing up in Cleveland's Tremont area. A product of St. Augustine Catholic School, she eventually moved to Garfield Heights, where she graduated from high school.

Joanne owned and operated a beauty salon on Cleveland's west side. Her former customers praised her as a loyal and generous person.

She later sold her business and moved to Medina County to become a full-time homemaker. An excellent cook, Joanne enriched the lives of her family and friends as the consummate hostess during family gatherings and holidays.

Our hearts go out to her husband and best friend, James; her four stepchildren and three stepgrandchildren; and legions of family and friends who recall the memories of these gatherings and the tremendous influence Joanne had in their lives.

HONORING THE GREECE LITTLE
LEAGUE ON ITS 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. THOMAS M. REYNOLDS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 5, 2003

Mr. REYNOLDS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise to pay tribute to the Greece Little League of Greece, New York, on the occasion of its 50th Anniversary.

Baseball has been America's pastime for over a century: a source of recreation and enjoyment for young and old alike.

Fifty years ago, the Greece Little League was created to serve young boys and girls in the Greece community. Today, the League serves 1,200 children and 1,000 families, and has extended its services to include softball and the Challenger Program, which allows physically and mentally challenged children to compete. The league provides a positive environment and a tremendous recreational opportunity for children of all ages and abilities.

Over the last half-century, America's pastime has been shared and enjoyed by many in the Town of Greece, thanks to the Greece Little League.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that this Congress join me in saluting the Greece Little League as it marks its 50th Anniversary.

TRIBUTE TO ERIE MAE BENDROSS:
THE PEOPLE'S ADVOCATE

HON. KENDRICK B. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 5, 2003

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I want to bring to the attention of my colleagues the passing of Ms. Erie Mae Bendross, a compassionate, caring and tireless community activist who passed away last Saturday, May 31st.

Ms. Bendross was a native of Miami and long-time resident of the Liberty City and Wynwood neighborhoods. She attended Tuskegee University in Alabama and worked as a dietician in many area hospitals. She was also a devoted choir member at St. Luke's Missionary Baptist Church. But it was in community action where her talents truly shown.

Erie Mae Bendross leaves behind a legacy of achievement and inspiration, for she is an example of what caring and commitment can accomplish. Only three years ago, Ms. Bendross joined the community-based organization LIFFT, Low Income Families Fighting Together, a grassroots organization of public housing residents, low-wage workers and welfare recipients. She quickly became a leader of the organization.

As a resident of the Liberty Square public housing development, she first became active in the fight to ensure affordable and decent housing opportunities for all people, regardless of their incomes.

Ms. Bendross firmly believed in the power of organization. In 2001, Bendross played a key role in saving Liberty Square Homes, or the Pork and Beans, from demolition and the displacement of hundreds of families. Her organization also exposed the county's public housing vacancies crisis as well as improved the living conditions of elderly public housing developments. Most importantly, she played a key role in developing other leaders in the community to build the organization and continue the struggle against racism and poverty.

Ms. Bendross dedicated herself to the fight against poverty and discrimination locally, nationally and internationally. Through her work in LIFFT and in association with several other organizations, including the Community Coalition to Fix HOPE VI, including the ACLU of Miami, NAACP, African American Council of Christian Clergy, Miami-Dade Black Affairs Advisory Board and other civil rights organizations. As a LIFFT leader, she supported the work of the Haitian Women of Miami, Miami for Peace Coalition, Coalition of Immokalee Farmworkers, Brothers of the Same Mind, and countless other social justice movements in the county.

Nationally, Ms. Bendross worked with other low-income, community-based grassroots organizations and leaders in California and Washington, DC on issues of fair trade, jobs and income supports for low-wage workers, opposing the war, fighting budget cuts, and the unethical treatment of workers. Her work on low income housing was widely recognized. Internationally, in January, Ms. Bendross represented LIFFT as part of the United States delegation to World Social Forum in Porto Alegre, Brazil.

Our community is better for the efforts of Erie Mae Bendross. She is survived by her mother, Martha Bendross, her brother, Willie